GREEN INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM

Funding Available: $15 million

The New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) will offer grants to help pay for certain projects that improve water quality and mitigate the effects of climate change through the Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP). The GIGP grants are awarded on a competitive basis to projects that will implement one or more of the following green practices (Green Practice(s)):

- **Green Stormwater Infrastructure**
- **Energy Efficiency**
- **Water Efficiency**
- **Environmental Innovation**

GIGP projects selected for funding maximize opportunities to leverage the multiple benefits of green infrastructure, energy efficiency, water efficiency, and environmental innovation to build capacity in these fields and facilitate the transfer of new technologies and practices to other areas of the State.

PROGRAM PRIORITIES:

***Climate Change Mitigation*:** Projects that implement one of the eligible Green Practices to reduce the effects of greenhouse gases and/or support clean energy initiatives.

***Environmental Justice Areas and Disadvantaged Communities*:** Projects that use Green Practices to advance the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, income, national origin or color, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

***Integration*:** Water infrastructure projects that integrate green stormwater infrastructure into traditional gray infrastructure projects to demonstrate the value of water quality improvements to the community and ecosystem to provide water quality benefits. The planning process for such projects should include the evaluation of important community benefits such as economic opportunity, climate action, and water equity.

***Natural Restoration*:** Projects that demonstrate the effectiveness of green stormwater infrastructure in a natural environment, such as flood plains, riparian buffers, streams, and wetlands.

***Transformation*:** Larger transformative projects that utilize Green Practices to provide multiple environmental, economic, and social benefits. These projects may leverage additional funding sources and align with larger goals of the community or region.

FUNDING OVERVIEW: Up to $15 million will be available for several types of grants that range from a minimum of 50% up to a maximum of 90% of total eligible project costs up to a maximum of $3 million. The grant amount is determined based on the eligible project costs as estimated in the application for planning, design, and construction. See below for more information on types of grants.

Funding will be provided to projects to the extent that funds are available based on the evaluation criteria, including the specific green practice, water quality impacts of the project, and financial need of the municipality. EFC, in its sole discretion, may fund all or a portion of an eligible project and will determine the percentage amount available for any project. A local match for the balance of the estimated project costs is required.

The maximum percentage available to fund a GIGP project will be determined based on the median household income (MHI) of the municipality in which the project is located and whether EFC determines the project serves, protects, or benefits an environmental justice area or disadvantaged community. Projects in municipalities that meet the following Median Household Income (MHI)[1]criteria, or that serve, protect, or benefit an environmental justice area or disadvantaged community will be eligible to receive up to the maximum grant available for the Green Practice.

- Municipal MHI equal to or less than $80,000 for communities in New York State, excluding the Long Island, New York City and Mid-Hudson Regions.

- Municipal MHI equal to or less than $100,000 for communities in the Long Island, New York City and Mid-Hudson Regions.

All other projects will be eligible for a maximum grant up to the lesser grant available as set forth under “Funding” for each practice. If a project employs two types of Green Practices, EFC, at its sole discretion, will determine which maximum applies.

[1] A summary of the United States Census, 2021 American Community Survey MHI data can be found on EFCs website at https://efc.ny.gov/american-community-survey-data

A summary of the funding available based on the type of green practice is below:

	GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE	**ENERGY EFFICIENCY**	**WATER EFFICIENCY**	**ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATION**
Municipal MHI equal to or less than $80,000 for communities in New York State, excluding the Long Island, New York City and Mid-Hudson Regions	Grant in an amount up to 90% of eligible project costs	Grant in an amount up to 75% of eligible project costs	Grant in an amount up to 75% of eligible project costs	Grant in an amount up to 90% of eligible project costs
Municipal MHI greater than $80,000 for communities in New York State, excluding the Long Island, New York City and Mid-Hudson Regions	Grant in an amount up to 75% of eligible project costs	Grant in an amount up to 50% of eligible project costs	Grant in an amount up to 50% of eligible project costs	Grant in an amount up to 75% of eligible project costs
Municipal MHI equal to or less than $100,000 for communities in the Long Island, New York City and Mid-Hudson Regions.	Grant in an amount up to 90% of eligible project costs	Grant in an amount up to 75% of eligible project costs	Grant in an amount up to 75% of eligible project costs	Grant in an amount up to 90% of eligible project costs
Municipal MHI greater than $100,000 for communities in the Long Island, New York City and Mid-Hudson Regions.	Grant in an amount up to 75% of eligible project costs	Grant in an amount up to 50% of eligible project costs	Grant in an amount up to 50% of eligible project costs	Grant in an amount up to 75% of eligible project costs

Applicants may have no more than two active GIGP awards at the same time. An active GIGP award means a project has been awarded funding and is in construction and not completed. EFC, however, reserves the right to limit GIGP funding to one grant award per applicant. Applicants must prioritize projects if submitting more than one application. EFC reserves the right to prioritize projects that are more protective of water quality.

EVALUATION CRITERIA: A project will be evaluated and scored based on the level to which it:

- Benefits Environmental Justice Areas or Disadvantaged Community
- Establishes or restores natural features, ecology, and hydrology

- Implements measures that address climate change, including cooling the surrounding environment, mitigating urban heat islands, reducing air pollution, and reducing energy use
- Is likely to succeed based on project development at time of application
- Is anticipated to make measurable improvements to or protect water quality, including the applicant's proposal for generating water quality metrics
- Leverages additional resources through removing barriers to collaboration, developing new partnerships, utilizing staff, securing other funding and investments, and/or provides workforce development
- Plans for the long-term operation, maintenance, and water quality of the project
- Provides opportunities for the applicant to facilitate the transfer of new technologies, knowledge, and practices to other water quality issues and other regions of the State
- Spurs innovation in the area of green stormwater infrastructure, energy efficiency, or water efficiency through the development and/or adoption of new technologies

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 30% Planning
- 30% Water Quality Impact
- 40% Environmental Benefit

AWARDEE REQUIREMENTS (after Grant Award): Awardees must fulfill certain requirements to enter into a Grant Agreement with EFC, including, but not limited to:

- EFC Certificate for Procuring Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Services. All A/E services must be procured in accordance with 40 U.S.C 1101
- Single Audit compliance as defined in 2 CFR 200, subpart 7
- State Environmental and Historic Preservation reviews, i.e., SEQR and SHPO
- Detailed final budget and plan of finance to show that sufficient funding has been secured for the full project cost.
- Proof of legal right to own, operate and maintain project for the duration of its useful life
- Compliance with Minority/Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) requirements
- Compliance with Disadvantaged Business Enterprise and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements
- Compliance with Davis Bacon Wage and American Iron and Steel Requirements for Treatment Works Projects Only. Publicly-Owned Treatment Works means any devices and systems used in the storage, treatment, recycling and reclamation of municipal sewage or industrial wastes of a liquid nature. It also includes sewers, pipes and other conveyances, only if they convey wastewater to a publicly owned treatment plant, and combined storm water and sanitary sewer systems.
- Compliance with Buy America Build America (BABA)

GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

SUMMARY: Green stormwater infrastructure projects improve water quality by reducing and treating stormwater at its source through infiltration and/or evapotranspiration. Green stormwater infrastructure projects selected for funding go beyond offering a greener solution. Green stormwater infrastructure practices treat rainwater as a valuable resource to be harvested and used on site or filtered and allowed to soak into the ground, recharging aquifers, rivers and streams. The plants used in green stormwater infrastructure help to cool our surroundings and improve air quality through the process of evapotranspiration. These Green Practices have multiple benefits, which include restoring habitat, protecting against flooding, providing cleaner air, and beautifying our streets to spur economic development and community revitalization.

FUNDING: The maximum percentage grant is up to 90% of eligible project costs for a green stormwater infrastructure project in a municipality that meets the MHI criteria, or that serves, protects, or benefits an EJ area. All other green infrastructure projects are eligible to receive up to a maximum of 75% of total eligible project costs.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

- Municipalities
- Private Entities
- State Agencies
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES:

Regional Green Stormwater Infrastructure projects utilize green stormwater infrastructure to restore natural landscape features, such as flood plains, riparian buffers, streams, and wetlands. These natural features provide water quality benefits and enhance watersheds, while preserving wildlife and their habitat.

Local Green Stormwater Infrastructure projects are typically located in an urban environment and consist of site and neighborhood specific practices, such as bioretention, cisterns, downspout disconnections, green roofs, green walls, permeable pavements, stormwater street trees, and urban forestry programs.

Eligible projects must meet or exceed requirements identified in USEPA Green Project Reserve guidance (published in 2012).

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS: All applicants must submit the following with their application:

- A Conceptual site plan
- Existing conditions plan
- Feasibility study
- Site photographs

Minimum content requirements for the feasibility study, conceptual site plan, and existing conditions plan, are included in the CFA and can also be found at: https://efc.ny.gov/gigp-apply.https://efc.ny.gov/gigp-apply.

Applicants should refer to the New York State Stormwater Management Design Manual: http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/29072.html for design guidance.

INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES/COSTS: Ineligible activities and costs include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Hardening, channelizing, or straightening streams and/or stream banks
- In-line and end-of-pipe treatment systems that only filter or detain stormwater
- Stormwater controls that have impervious or semi-impervious liners and provide no compensatory evapotranspirative or harvesting function for stormwater retention
- Stormwater conveyance systems that are not soil/vegetation based (swales) such as pipes and concrete channels
- Stormwater ponds that serve an extended detention function and/or extended filtration, including dirt-lined detention basins
- Underground stormwater control and treatment devices such as swirl concentrators, hydrodynamic separators, baffle systems for grit, trash removal/floatables, oil and grease, inflatable booms and dams for in-line underground storage and diversion of flows
- Practices implemented to comply with the requirements of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity Permit No. GP-0-15-002
- Wetland construction or restoration required as compensation (mitigation) for adverse impacts to wetlands or other environmental damage caused through construction activities
- Purchase of capital equipment such as street sweepers, sewer cleaners, and vactor trucks
- Project costs not directly related to water quality, including asbestos abatement and site amenities, e.g., bus shelters, benches, light poles, traffic devices

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

SUMMARY: Energy Efficiency projects improve technologies and/or practices to reduce the energy consumption of water quality projects, use energy in a more efficient way, or produce/utilize renewable energy.

FUNDING: The maximum percentage grant is up to 75% of eligible project costs for an energy efficiency project in a municipality that meets the MHI criteria, or that serves, protects, or benefits an environmental justice area. All other energy efficiency projects are eligible to receive up to a maximum of 50% of total eligible project costs.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS: Publicly-Owned Treatment Works (POTW)

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES:

Renewable Energy projects such as wind, solar, micro-hydroelectric, and biogas combined heat and power systems (CHP) that provide power to a POTW. POTW renewable energy projects can be located onsite or offsite. These projects include the portion of a publicly owned renewable energy project that serves the POTW's energy needs. The project must feed into the grid from which the utility draws and/or must be directly connected to the grid.

Energy Efficient Replacement projects achieve at least a 25% reduction in energy consumption through the replacement of equipment with energy efficient equipment. These projects must compare the energy used by the existing system or unit process to the proposed project. The energy used by the existing system should be based on name plate data when the system was first installed, recognizing that the old system is currently operating at a lower overall efficiency than at the time of installation. New POTW projects or capacity expansion projects should be designed to maximize energy efficiency and should select high efficiency premium motors and equipment where cost effective.

Eligible projects must meet or exceed requirements identified in USEPA Green Project Reserve guidance (published in 2012)

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS: All applicants must submit an engineering report consistent with the DEC/EFC Engineering Report Outline and Flex Tech report if available, with their CFA.

INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES / COSTS: Ineligible activities and costs include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Renewable energy generation by a privately owned facility or the portion of a publicly owned renewable energy facility that does not provide energy to a POTW, either through a connection to the grid that the utility draws from and/or a direct connection to the POTW.
- Replacing a pump or other piece of equipment at the end of its useful life with equipment of average efficiency.
- Facultative lagoons, even if integral to an innovative treatment process.

WATER EFFICIENCY

SUMMARY: Water Efficiency projects use improved technologies and/or practices to deliver equal or better services with less water. Water efficiency encompasses conservation and reuse efforts, as well as water loss reduction and prevention, to protect

water resources for the future. All water meters must be installed by a professional under contract with the applicant and may not be installed or coordinated by the homeowner.

FUNDING: The maximum percentage grant is up to 75% of eligible project costs for a water efficiency project in a municipality that meets the MHI criteria, or that serves, protects, or benefits an environmental justice area. All other water efficiency projects are eligible to receive up to a maximum of 50% of total eligible project costs.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS: Municipalities

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES:

Water Meter Installation projects provide for the purchase and installation of water meters in previously unmetered areas. These projects can include backflow prevention devices if installed in conjunction with water meters.

Water Meter Replacement projects include the replacement of existing broken/malfunctioning water meters or upgrading existing meters with automatic meter reading systems (AMR), smart meters, meters with built in leak detection, or backflow prevention devices if installed in conjunction with water meter replacement.

Water Meter Retrofit projects add AMR capabilities or leak detection equipment to existing meters (not replacing the meter itself).

Water Reuse projects recycle gray water, condensate, and wastewater effluent to reduce potable water consumption.

Eligible projects must meet or exceed requirements identified in USEPA Green Project Reserve guidance (published in 2012)

APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS: All applicants must submit an engineering report consistent with the DEC/EFC Engineering Report Outline with their CFA.

INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES / COSTS: Ineligible activities and costs include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Replacing drinking water distribution lines.
- Leak detection equipment for drinking water distribution systems.

NOTE: All water meters must be installed by a professional under contract with the applicant and may not be installed or coordinated by the homeowner

ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATION

SUMMARY: Environmentally Innovative projects include those that demonstrate new and/or innovative approaches to delivering services or managing water resources in a more sustainable way.

FUNDING: The maximum percentage grant is up to 90% of eligible project costs for a water efficiency project in a municipality that meets the MHI criteria, or that serves, protects, or benefits an environmental justice area. All other environmental innovation projects are eligible to receive up to a maximum of 75% of total eligible project costs.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS: Municipalities

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES:

Adaptation projects that prepare for long term effects of climate change and/or extreme weather. These projects include the relocation of equipment or treatment facilities located in areas with a documented history of flooding.

Upgrades or Retrofits to a POTW that remove phosphorous for beneficial use, such as biofuel production with algae.

Implementation of asset management plans that meet DEC's guidelines. These capital projects must align with the objectives of the asset management plan to effectively manage infrastructure investments. Grants are limited to one grant per asset management plan.

INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES / COSTS: Ineligible activities and costs include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Facultative lagoons, even if integral to an innovative treatment processes.
- Surface discharging decentralized wastewater systems where there are cost effective soil-based alternatives.
- Higher sea walls to protect POTW from sea level rise.
- Air scrubbers to prevent nonpoint source deposition.
- Reflective roofs at POTW to combat heat island effect.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:
For more GIGP program information, visit: http://www.efc.ny.gov/gigp